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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

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Prof. Joshua Lederberg
Dept. of Genetics
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Miss Helen Byers asked me to write a letter of recommendation for her. I know Miss Byers since many years as a good friend of my daughter, and since this year also as a student in my Biochemistry class. I have a very high opinion of Helen who is really a quite unusual person. She is extremely conscientious, very seriously interested in science, apparently not at all interested in boyfriends, dancing and fashionable events, quite different from most girls on the campus. She is very serious, but a very pleasant person, as you will see, and has a good sense of humor.

I do not know anything about her achievements in genetics. I suppose that Dr. Muller or Dr. Sonneborn will write you. In Biochemistry she is taking the lecture and the laboratory. Her papers were very good, her laboratory work excellent, her laboratory protocols extremely neat and clear. I would certainly accept her as a co-worker, if she wanted to work with me. She will be the most reliable, most conscientious worker in a laboratory, and I believe that you would be very fortunate if you had her as co-worker. I must confess that I do not know whether she has genius and imagination. It is hard to find it out in a routine course of biochemistry. I believe that she is not the brilliant type of worker with important discoveries every other day. But this is probably not the most desirable type as a co-worker. She will always be a hard persevering worker, she has patience, interest and much energy. For all these reasons I recommend her very heartily and without reservation. My own feeling towards her was always admiration for her energy and for her deep interest in scientific work. She is certainly worth to be granted a fellowship or assistantship.

With all good wishes for 1952, and with my best regards to Mrs. Lederberg,

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Felix Haurowitz', is written over a large, diagonal, hand-drawn line that spans across the bottom right of the page.

Felix Haurowitz